

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 6-12 and 25-31 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 6-12 and 25-31 stand rejected by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-8, 10, 12, 25-27, 29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,708,161 to Tenorio et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,601 to Hardy. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Tenorio et al. discloses a method for selectively indexing a database using selected fields, determining the total time required for reading data from the fields during a selected time period if the fields are indexed, determining the total time required for reading data from the fields during the selected time period if the fields are not indexed, determining the total time required for writing data to the fields during the selected time period if the fields are indexed, determining the total time required for writing data to the fields during the selected time period if the fields are not indexed and evaluating the total times required for reading and writing data to the fields to determine whether the fields should be indexed. (Col 1, line 56 through col. 2 line 4 and Claims 1, 21).

Tenorio et al. also teaches a global content directory (GCD) that accesses a number of seller databases concerning vast numbers of products (Col. 2, lines 5-9 and Figure 1). Tenorio et al. states:

This access to vast numbers of products is provided *without* the requirement that all data about the products be stored in a global database (which would greatly decrease performance). Instead the product data may be stored in seller databases that can be readily accessed from the global content directory (col. 2 lines 20-26).

Claim 6 of the present invention recites, in relevant part;

A method comprising:

(a) hosting, on a server, a database of specification data of products of a plurality of different manufacturers, the product specification data in the database being arranged in a predefined product class;

The Examiner states that Tenorio et al. at col. 2, lines 5-28 discloses a server hosting a database of specification data of products of a plurality of manufacturers. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants are unsure if the Examiner analogizes the Tenorio et al. GCD, global database or the seller databases to the Claim 6 database of specification data of products of a plurality of different manufacturers hosted on a server wherein the product specification data in the database being arranged in a predefined product class. However, none of the Tenorio et al. items are analogous to element (a) of Claim 6.

Applicants submit that the directory (GCD) of Tenorio et al. is not analogous to element (a) of Claim 6 because the directory (42) does not contain a product database (See Figures 1 and 4 and column 2). Tenorio et al. shows the product database (32) to be separate elements in Figures 1 and 4. In addition, the global database of Tenorio et al. is disfavored as part of the problem to be solved as evinced by at Col. 4 lines 47-55 which state, in relevant part:

One potential method of addressing this problem is to create a global product database that potentially includes data identifying the features of all the products that any buyer may wish to obtain. ... However, such a global database would have many problems. For example, the sheer size of the database would make it difficult to search and thus the database would suffer from performance problems. In addition, it would be difficult to allow large numbers of buyers 20 to search the database at once. Furthermore, all sellers 30 would be required to access the global database to update their information and the entire database would have to be updated each time a change is made. Many other problems might also exist. (Tenorio et al. col. 4 lines 47-55).

Applicants note that Tenorio et al. thus teaches away from the use of a global database to arrive at the configuration shown in Figures 1 and 4. Also, the seller databases are not analogous to element (a) Claim 6 because Tenorio et al. does not explicitly describe them as databases of product specification data of a plurality of different manufacturers, wherein the product specification data in the database are arranged in a predefined product class. Accordingly, Applicants disagree that Tenorio et al. teaches element (a) of Claim 6.

Element (b) of Claim 6 recites:

(b) defining, for each product class, a schema for the entry of specification data of products in the product class;

The Examiner cites a GUID description (Tenorio et al., Col. 8 lines 5-39) to include the product class as recited in element (b) of Claim 6. Respectfully, Applicants cannot find evidence that Tenorio et al. teaches that a schema is defined for each GUID as would be needed if Tenorio et al. were to disclose element (b) of Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants disagree that Tenorio et al. teaches element (b) of Claim 6.

Element (c) of Claim 6 recites:

(c) providing an interface for use by product manufacturers for entry of new product specification data into the database and for modifying existing product specification data in the database, the interface requiring each manufacturer to use a same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class;

The Examiner indicates that the Tenorio et al. at col. 4, lines 38-67 discloses the interface of element (c) in Claim 6. Respectfully, Applicants cannot find evidence that product manufacturers, using the Tenorio et al. invention, are required to use a same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class as in Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants disagree that Tenorio et al. teaches element (c) of Claim 6.

The Examiner states that Tenorio et al. fails to teach element (d) of Claim 6. Applicants agree. However, Applicant does not agree that Hardy teaches element (d) of Claim 6 which recites:

(d) in exchange for remuneration from a given manufacturer, providing that manufacturer with access to the interface and to its respective product specification data in the database for use outside of the database and charging each manufacturer desiring to have access to the database a fee for such access.

Hardy discloses a method and system for utilizing 900 service for single use and short term access to internet subscription services. Hardy is directed to a method for using an existing caller pay service telecommunications infrastructure to provide single use and short term access to fee for access Internet web sites (Hardy, Col. 2 lines 9-16).

Hardy does not disclose remuneration from a given manufacturer to provide that manufacturer with access to its manufacturing product specification data for use outside the

database where the access is an interface for entry of new product specification data into the database and for modifying existing product specification data in the database, the interface requiring each manufacturer to use a same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class as does Claim 6. Applicants submit that all of the elements of element (d) of Claim 6 are not disclosed in Hardy.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness per 35 U.S.C §103(a) (See MPEP 706.02(j)). Applicant notes that neither Tenorio et al. nor Hardy, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention recited in Claim 6 because all elements are not present in the references. Specifically, elements (a), (b), (c) and (d) are missing from the cited references. Since independent Claim 25 has similar limitations as in independent Claim 6, the combination of Tenorio et al. and Hardy cannot render obvious Claims 6 or 25. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claims 6 and 25 as these claims patentably define over the cited art.

Similarly, in as much as Claims 7-12 and 26-31 depend on Claims 6 and 25 respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims also patentably define over the cited art for the reasons provided above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of dependent Claims 6-12 and 25-31.

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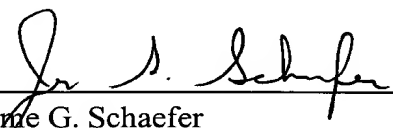
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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in a condition for allowance upon entry of the amendments herein. Applicants earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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